

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-12 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 STR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4498

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BY, IT, EMIN, ENRG, ECRE

SUBJECT: ITALIANS SAID TO PROMISE AID TO BURUNDI

REF: BUJUMBURA 0604

1. AFTER THE DEPARTURE OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION LED BY SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEDINI (SEE REFTTEL) EARLY SEPTEMBER 28TH, BURUNDI FONMIN SIMBANANIYE STATED THAT THE BURUNDI AND ITALIAN DELEGATIONS HAD AGREED TO SEEK OUT PROJECTS IN THE FIELDS OF TOURISM, ENERGY, MINING AND ROADS IN WHICH ITALY MIGHT PARTICIPATE. THE PREVIOUS EVENING PEDINI HAD MENTIONED EDUCATION AS ANOTHER AREA IN WHICH ITALY MIGHT MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.

2. FONMIN SIMBANANIYE STATED TO THE PRESS THAT THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAD AGREED TO BUILD AN INTERNATIONAL CLASS HOTEL IN BUJUMBURA IN TIME FOR THE CENTRAL AND EAST AFRICA SUMMIT CONFERENCE DUE TO BE HELD IN BUJUMBURA IN 1976. IN ADDITION, HE SAID, THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE ASTALDI INDUSTRIAL

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GROUP HAVE MADE A LOAN OF THREE MILLIOMDOLLARS TO FINANCE

STUDIES OF A PROPOSED HYDROELECTRIC INSTALLATION ON THE MUREMBWE, SIKUVYAYE AND JIJI RIVERS IN THE MOUNTAINS EAST OF RUMONGE ON LAKE TANGANYIKA. THIS SITE, SAID THE FONMIN, HAS AN ESTIMATED POTENTIAL OF 240 MEGAWATTS, AND THE PROJECT WOULD THUS CONTRIBUTE IMPORTANTLY TO DEVELOPING BURUNDI'S NICKEL DEPOSITS.

3. SIMBANANIYE DECORATED SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN DELEGATION IN PRESIDENT MICOMBERO'S NAME.

4. COMMENT: APPARENTLY EITHER THE BARUNDI FINALLY PERSUADED THE ITALIANS TO BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THEY HAD ORIGINALLY INTENDED FOR THE IMMEDIATE PRESENT (REFTEL, OR FONMIN SIMBANANIYE IS COUNTING HIS CHECKENS BEFORE THEY HAVE HATCHED. IN THE ABSENCE OF AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, WE WILL TRY TO SCOUT OUT DETAILS, BUT SURVEYORS HAVE ALREADY APPEARED AT PROPOSED HOTEL SITE, NOW OCCUPIED BY AN EXTENSIVE AMERICAN MISSIONARY COMPLEX.
MARK

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